

AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

Listing of Claims:

1. (Currently amended) A biological process for ~~the-a~~ synthesis of shape, size and polymorph controlled oxide nanoparticles, which process comprises incubating a wet fungus or fungal extract with an aqueous metal salt solution ~~of a metal salt~~ to obtain a biomass, separating the biomass and filtering ~~the~~ oxide nanoparticles ~~therefrom~~ the biomass.
2. (Currently amended) A-The process as claimed in claim 1 wherein the incubation of the wet fungus/ or fungal extract with the metal salt solution is carried out at a temperature ~~in a range of ranging from~~ 15 °C to 40 °C and for a period ~~in the range~~ of 1 to 3 days.
3. (Currently amended) A-The process as claimed in claim 1 wherein the biomass is filtered using a ~~minimum 1 micron~~ pore size filter of at least 1 micron to obtain the oxide nanoparticles.
4. (Currently amended) A-The process as claimed in claim 1 wherein the metal salt is selected from the group consisting of chlorides, nitrates, oxalates and sulfates.
5. (Currently amended) A-The process as claimed in claim 1 wherein the fungus is used in whole cell form, wet solid mass or fungal extract.
6. (Currently amended) A-The process as claimed in claim 1 wherein the temperature for incubation ~~is in the ranges from~~ 23 °C - 33 °C.
7. (Currently amended) A-The process as claimed in claim 6 wherein the temperature for incubation ~~is in the ranges of~~ from 25 °C - 29 °C.
8. (Currently amended) A-The process as claimed in claim 1 wherein the ~~concentration of the metal salt in the~~ solution is not less than 1mM.

9. (Currently amended) ~~A-The~~ process as claimed in claim 1 wherein the wet fungus or /fungal extract is used in an amount of from 10 to 60 mgs.

10. (Currently amended) ~~A-The~~ process as claimed in claim 1 wherein the wet fungus is selected from the group consisting of *Fusarium sp.*, *Trichothecium sp.*, *Verticillium sp.*, *Chloridium sp.*, *Aspergillus sp.*, *Cephaliophora sp.*, *Fusarium oxysporum* and *Helicostylum sp.*

11. (Currently amended) ~~A-The~~ process as claimed in claim 1 wherein the metal comprises a ~~metal from the transition group~~ metal group.

12. (Currently amended) ~~A-The~~ process as claimed in claim 1 wherein the metal is selected from the group consisting of Ti, Zr, Si and Zn.